

February 21, 2023

Minnesota House of Representatives  
Committee on Labor and Industry Finance and Policy  
State Office Building, Rm. 10  
Saint Paul, MN 55155

RE: House File 772, Support for Advanced Commercial Energy Codes

Dear Chair Nelson, Representative Kraft, and Committee Members,

On behalf of Clean Energy Economy MN (CEEM), I write today in support of HF772 to advance the State's commercial building energy code by adopting the most recent version of ASHRAE 90.1, once the Department of Labor and Industry (DOLI) determines it will improve energy efficiency, beginning in 2024. We support this bill because it provides a clear pathway to significantly lower both energy usage and greenhouse gas emissions in commercial buildings.

CEEM is an industry-led, nonpartisan, non-profit organization representing the business voice of energy efficiency and clean energy in Minnesota. We work to educate Minnesotans about the economic benefits of transitioning to a clean energy economy and are committed to delivering a 100% clean energy future where all Minnesota businesses and citizens will thrive. Our business membership is comprised of nearly 50 clean energy companies ranging from start-up businesses to Fortune 100 and 500 corporations that employ tens of thousands of Minnesotans across the state.

We thank Rep. Kraft for bringing this bill forward and Chair Nelson for hearing it in committee. Adopting new commercial building energy codes in a timely manner is an example of clear policy leadership in alignment with the state's Climate Action Framework of driving reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. New building codes also represent an important expansion of the market for our energy efficiency businesses. Additionally, adopting new building energy codes is vital to Minnesota fully maximizing and competing for federal dollars through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

Today, over 42,200 Minnesotans work in energy efficiency comprising nearly 75 percent of our state's almost 58,000 clean energy jobs.<sup>1</sup> In addition, CEEM and its member businesses know that climate risk is business risk. State policies, including HF772, that support swift progress towards a thriving and prosperous clean energy future send a powerful signal that Minnesota is open for business – attracting private sector investment and supporting local job creation.

Thank you for this opportunity to share our support for this bill. We look forward to its passage. If you have any questions, please let us know.

Sincerely,



George Damian  
Director of Government Affairs  
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<sup>1</sup> 2022 Clean Jobs Midwest Report: <https://www.cleanenergyeconomymn.org/clean-jobs-midwest>